

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 AGRE-00 L-03

SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /091 W

-----181540Z 110826 /43

P R 180904Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7064

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS ACCRA 2020

FOR AID/W-FFP AND AA/AFR; STATE-AF/W

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, EPAP, GH

SUBJECT: P.L. 480 TITLE II EMERGENCY FOOD AID, GHANA

REF: (A) ACCRA 1549; (B) 76 ACCRA TOAID A-72 (C) REPORT OF
FOOD ASSESSMENT TEAM FIELD TRIP DEC. 15-23, 1976; (D) MEMCON
OF 1/10/77 MEETING

1. THIS CABLE IS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE EMERGENCY FOOD SITUATION
REPORTED OCT. 8, 1976 PER REF B. IN REF B THE USAID, WITH
ASSISTANCE OF FFP OFFICER G. WOOD, CONFIRMED THAT AN EMERGENCY
FOOD SITUATION EXISTED AND THAT A 5,000 MT "STOPGAP" RESPONSE
BE MADE AS AN INTERIM ACTION FOR THE FOOD SHORTAGE. IT WAS
ALSO RECOGNIZED PER REF B THAT THE ANTICIPATED SHORTFALL
WOULD BE NEARER 60,000 MT BUT THAT THE USAID SHOULD WAIT
UNTIL AN ANALYSIS OF ACTUAL 1976 GRAIN SHORTFALL BEFORE
RECOMMENDING MEDIUM-TERM FOOD ASSISTANCE IN EXCESS OF THE
"STOPGAP" DONATION.

2. REF C WHICH HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO AID/W PROVIDED THE
ANALYSIS OF ACTUAL 1976 GRAIN SHORTFALL AFTER THE LATE
HARVEST FOR THE TWO AFFECTED REGIONS (NORTHERN AND UPPER).
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THE SHORTFALL IS NEARLY 65,000 MT. IT IS THE TEAM'S ASSESS-
MENT THAT ALL BUT 15,000 MT COULD BE MET FROM GOG AND OTHER
SOURCES. IT WAS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. DONATE
15,000 MT, INCLUDING THE 5,000 MT ALREADY APPROVED.

3. AFTER RECEIVING REF C, THE USAID RAISED SEVERAL CRITICAL
PROBLEMS THAT THE GOG HAD TO RESOLVE BEFORE A REQUEST FOR

ADDITIONAL FOOD AID COULD BE MADE. REF D, COPY OF MEMCON OF 1/10/77 MEETING, ALREADY DELIVERED TO AID/W. SINCE THE JAN. 10 MEETING, SEVERAL MORE MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS TOOK PLACE WITH GOG RESULTING IN THE FOLLOWING:

- A. FEB. 23, 1977, ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF, CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE;
- B. 3/9/77, COMMISSIONER GARDINER PERSONALLY VISITED PORT OF TAKORADI AND CLEARED UP STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS;
- C. 3/14/77, LETTER RECEIVED FROM DR. GARDINER REQUESTING 15,000 MT VEGETABLE OIL. ACTION IS NOW UNDER WAY TO NAME FULL-TIME NATIONAL COORDINATOR, DEVELOP DISTRIBUTION PLAN, AND ORGANIZE ALL NECESSARY LOGISTICS BEFORE MARCH 31.

4. USAID BELIEVES THAT ACTIONS BY GOG NOW RPT NOW SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT RECOMMENDING THAT AN ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FOOD AID BE MADE TO GHANA. THE ALLOCATION SHOULD CONSIST OF 10,000 MT SORGHUM IN 5,000 MT INCREMENTS PRE-BAGGED TO MAKE USE OF UNCONGESTED FACILITIES AT PORT OF TAKORADI.

5. GIVEN THAT FOOD SITUATION IN UPPER AND NORTHERN REGIONS IS VERY SERIOUS AND ACTIONS BY GOG TO CORRECT THE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN POSITIVE, EMBASSY/USAID STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE 10,000 MT OF SORGHUM NOTED IN PARA 4 BE ALLOCATED TO GHANA UNDER P.L. 480 TITLE II. THIS DONATION WILL BE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION, THEREBY MAKING GOG THE CONSIGNEE, AS OPPOSED TO CRS FOR THE EARLIER STOPGAP. THIS INITIAL STOPGAP DONATION WILL POSSIBLY STRETCH NO FURTHER THAN MAY. STRONGLY URGE THAT THE PROCESSING BE UNCLASSIFIED

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HANDLED TO ALLOW FOR ARRIVAL OF FIRST 5,000 MT OF NEW ALLOCATION NOT LATER THAN JUNE. THE SECOND 5,000 MT SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR ARRIVAL EARLY JULY. ALL SORGHUM SHOULD BE PRE-BAGGED BEFORE ARRIVAL AT THE PORT OF TAKORADI. PLEASE ADVISE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DECISION REGARDING THIS REQUEST AND ALSO ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS USAID SHOULD UNDERTAKE IN THE INTERIM.

6. FOR ABIDJAN: REQUEST COMMENTS OF REGIONAL FFP OFFICER AND LOGISTICS OFFICER ON THIS CABLE DIRECTLY TO AID/W, INFO ACCRA. ALSO SEEK ABIDJAN'S SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO APPROACH FOR HANDLING FOOD SHIPMENT AND POSSIBLE WAYS TO SPEED UP ACTUAL ARRIVAL IN LESS THAN NINETY-DAY PERIOD SPECIFIED PREVIOUSLY BY AID/W. SMITH

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA02020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
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